

## THE OLD SOLDIERS

## Can No Longer be Duped by Republican Misrepresentation.

From Pratt County Union.

A great effort is being made by republicans to arouse the soldier element on the pension question. It is my deliberate conviction that the position of the managers and leaders of the republican party is one of deception and fraud in this matter. My idea is that no political party in this country would dare to or care to be illiberal with the old soldiers in the granting of pensions. My idea, also, is that President Harrison, while trying to stand in with the old soldiers is, also, on the secret and the sly trying to stand in with Wall street in this matter. What I base my opinion on is this:

First—That the official records show that, with all the outcry against him, Cleveland signed 1,825 special private pension bills, while Harrison has only permitted 1,400 private bills to become laws. Cleveland vetoed only 252 private pension bills, while he is charged with many more.

Second—What appears to me to be conclusive evidence that Harrison is deceiving the soldiers and secretly working for Wall street is this: That no man did more for his election in 1888 than did Corporal Tanner, who promised all the old soldiers a pension. That when he was appointed commissioner of pensions and proceeded to carry out his pledges to the boys in the liberal spirit in which he promised them, he was unceremoniously bounced and Green B. Raum put in his place. This was neither the desire nor the demand of the boys in blue to have Corporal Tanner removed. It was charged at the time, with a good many circumstances to make it appear the truth, that his removal was demanded by the moneyed men of the east in order to save the treasury from being drained and thus remove a weighty argument for an increase of the currency. To have permitted too great an increase of pensions would have interfered with the gold basis idea and would have encouraged the free silver and government currency idea, and it had to be squelched.

Third—The record of pensions vetoed by Mr. Raum bears but the idea that his aim has been to save the one-idea money man of the east at the expense of the soldier element.

If it was wrong for Cleveland to veto pensions, was it not equally wrong for Mr. Raum to do so?

The official records of the reports of General Black for the first three years of his administration shows that he rejected (or vetoed) pension claims as follows: For the year ending

June 30, 1886.....	62,732
June 30, 1887.....	44,234
June 30, 1888.....	70,940

Total for three years..... 177,906

Raum rejected (or vetoed) pension claims as follows: For the year ending

June 30, 1889.....	66,679
June 30, 1890.....	114,436
June 30, 1891.....	23,127

Total for three years..... 204,242

Less total by Black..... 177,906

Raum's vetoes more than Black's..... 230,236

In whose interest did Green B. Raum make all those pension vetoes? It certainly looks like it was in the interest of Wall street gold bugs, rather than that of the old soldiers. Harrison wouldn't dare to veto all these pension claims in three years, for his veto messages would all be published and raise too great a stink; but he appointed a man who, in the interest of Wall street, more ruthlessly rejects the pension applications of the old soldiers than General Clarkson chopped off the heads of democratic post-

masters. If any old soldier has a penchant for figuring out such things, he will find that for every working day for the three years of Mr. Raum's administration, an average of 452 old soldiers, their widows and orphans applications for relief were ruthlessly and secretly vetoed by the chosen instrument of President Harrison. At eight hours per day it would make 56 1/4 claims every hour, or nearly one a minute of the present administration.

This is too favorable a showing, however, for Mr. Harrison and his chosen pension commissioner, for the reason that the first year credited to Gen. Raum (1889) is part of Gen. Black's year, which was filled out by Corporal Tanner. The real decapitation of soldiers' application, for relief by Raum did not begin till the year ending June 30, 1890. This and the following year shows fearful execution in an increasing degree.

The first year rejected claims were.....	114,436
The second year.....	236,137

Total for two years..... 350,573

Which makes for every working day 584 claims rejected, and in an eight hour day equals 73 per hour.

The report of Gen. Raum for year ending June 30, 1892, is not yet attainable, and in view of the above fearful showing, it may be that it is purposely delayed. If his vetoes for the past year equal that of the preceding year, it would make his vetoes equal 586,750, or for three years of his administration an excess over Gen. Black's disallowances, for the same period, of 409,704 claims.

The object of this article is not to defend Grover Cleveland and his administration, but simply to show by comparison therewith that the position of President Harrison and his administration towards the old soldiers on the question of pensions is one of fraud and deceit.

That no party could possibly treat them worse than their own pretended friends have treated them.

That the terrible axe of pension vetoes is being wielded by Gen. Raum with President Harrison's approval, or without interference from him, to kill the hopes of disabled veterans, their widows and their orphans of relief from our government, at the rate of seventy-three deaths per hour.

These are the official figures, and if the reasonable, sensible old soldiers would stop and investigate they would never support again the rotten old fraud on the ground of friendship to the soldier. A fearful, wonderful record of fraud and duplicity is this toward the old soldier, and the one that has the true fire of '61 to '65 in his veins will bury Harrison so deep that he never will see the political surface again.

A true and noble soldier is presented to you who does value your interests higher than those of the gold bugs of the east, and knowing the record of fraud, duplicity and deceit that has been made against you by your professed friends, we believe you will no longer be deceived. You have the facts and you must make your choice.

## ONE OF THE BOYS WHO FOUGHT FOR THE UNION.

In reply to a request from the Cincinnati Post, asking that they be allowed to examine the campaign expense fund book of the political parties, the People's party chairman, Mr. Taubeneck, promptly consented. The democratic chairman, Mr. Harrity, expressed willingness to allow it to be done after the election, and the republican chairman, Mr. Carter, entirely evades a direct reply.—Farmers' Advocate.

Vote the straight ticket.

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## Something for Soldiers to Think About.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE.

I have in my possession a copy of the proceedings of the convention of the American Bankers' association, held at New York, September, 1877. I have gathered some information from it, of which I feel each soldier of the civil war should be in possession, so I send to you for publication. On pages 24 and 25 we find:

"In 1861 the United States was in a remarkably solvent condition. The financial revulsion of 1857 had been followed by two very bountiful crops, which had given the country a credit in its balance of trade, by the harvests of 1858-1859. Gentlemen will remember we imported coin very largely. It may be instructive here to know what was the amount of coin held by the banks. The banks in the city of New York had about \$40,000,000; the banks in the city of Boston had about \$10,000,000; the banks in the city of Philadelphia about \$6,000,000. I think, and altogether the amount was not far in those three cities from \$60,000,000. After the battle of Bull Run, the secretary of the treasury came to New York in haste, and merchants and bankers were called together in the evening in great alarm to see what could be done to supply the needed money for defense. It was then suggested that the banks be organized by some plan of union by which they could aid the government in a body. On the next morning we met at a bank in this city (New York) and consummated that plan. We at once resolved to form a league—a confederated bank, if you please to call it so—composed of the banks of the three cities, New York, Boston and Philadelphia. It was at once agreed to loan the government \$50,000,000 in gold coin, and it was agreed, also, if it were found practicable, to lend \$50,000,000 more, and then \$50,000,000 more, and so to go on as the way was made clear. That was done, sir; and among the first things we asked the secretary of the treasury was this: That in drawing the money from us he should use this machinery of bank checks, which experience had found so important and by which he could best draw out the money loaned him and diffuse it through the country for the various industries for which the government loans were to be exchanged, and we assured him that the ordinary bank machinery would best answer the purpose without touching or deranging the coin which lay with us, as the basis and measure of the whole transaction. We went on in that arrangement, sir, at the rate of \$5,000,000 per week. The secretary of the treasury, although earnestly solicited to do so, absolutely declined to accept that expedient. He insisted that this money should all be taken from us in coin, and be first paid into the treasury, thence to be diffused again in coin for army supplies. It

was so done. In about one week from each payment of \$5,000,000 the same sum returned to us in the current of business. I kept careful account of it, and I remember well that in six or seven days we had as much coin as we had at each payment, so swift was the circulation in the heat of those active events. At that first meeting we resolved that it was necessary that the secretary of the treasury refrain from the issue of government demand notes until the very last necessity imposed it upon him; but at the issue of the third \$5,000,000 it was discovered that about \$50,000,000 of government demand notes were being paid out. The very first week that they were issued we found it quite impossible to take them into our solvent currency."

They ceased paying out gold on December 31, 1861. Now let us draw a few parallels. Soldiers of '61, while you were forming armies to face rebel bullets, the banks of New York, Boston and Philadelphia were forming a "confederated bank." They were out of their gold for one week, that for hire; while you were burying dead comrades, contracting disease to cause years of suffering, and cutting years from your lease of life. The paltry pittance paid you was no adequate pay. You did not go for hire; you went from a love of country, to preserve the union, to fight for the flag, whose only loyal inscription can be, "*E pluribus unum*." When the secretary of the treasury found it necessary to use his own "bank machinery" demand notes, the "confederated bank" refused its gold. Never for a single day did you desert your post, when the paymaster was delayed on his round. The confederated bank was out of its gold for but one week. For four long years were you exposed to the perils of war. From 1861 to the present time that confederated bank has been scheming to have laws enacted to perpetuate its existence and fill its vaults, while you, imbued with loyalty to your government and unbounded patriotism, have been its unsuspecting victims. I fail to find in the banker's own words any reasons why the republican party should demand of the old soldier that he vote to spend his remaining days as an interest slave to that confederated bank. The republican party through its legislative enactments has granted this confederated bank every demand it has made since its organization. It now controls the volume of your measure of value; it dictates of what that measure shall be made; it has crushed out the independent manhood of thousands of your fellow men, by forcing them to be perpetual employees, whose employment depends upon the caprice or will of an employer. Its only object is to fill its own vaults. A vote for the republican party is a vote to continue this confederated bank control. Soldier, is there aught in these statements to show they have any right to demand your vote? Do you owe aught on the grounds of patriotism?

LAURA L. LOWE.

Farlinville, Kas., October 23, 1892.

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